

Longevity of the Patriarchs

Graphs showing the life span of the patriarchs. Compare the life spans before the flood with those after the flood. The life span average before the flood was 912 years, after the flood 222 years.

The lower graph shows the declining life span after the flood. These ages closely match an exponential decay curve. It took 20 generations for a new equilibrium of 70 to be reached. *Peleg's brother was Joktan, which means: "he shall be made little or small," notice the life span decline with Peleg!

There are many factors that could account for the lowering of the life spans after the flood. The Bible states that the flood would not only destroy the land dwelling air breathing animals but it would also destroy the earth. (Gen. 6:13; 9:11) After the flood the earth was completely different than the earth before. These differences would include changes in the climate, composition of the atmosphere, hydrologic cycle, geologic features, cosmic radiation reaching the earth, ozone concentration, ultra violet light, background radiation, genetics, diet, and a host of other subtle and/or profound chemical and physiological changes. These changes caused a rapid decline of the longevity of post flood humanity.

Implications of the Exponential Decay Curve

- The information source (divine revelation) for the ages of the patriarchs provided ages that closely matches a natural exponential equation.
- It is highly unlikely that people living at this time knew the mathematics of the exponential decay curve.
- It is very unlikely that the ages were fabricated since they closely match the exponential decay curve, which occurs naturally.
- The ages of death show that the post genesis flood world was being affected by some natural factors that were causing the declining life spans.

All of these factor indicate that the ages given were genuine and not fabrications.